

15 March 2000

Vandenberg AFB

EnvirVision



Electric Vehicles Have Arrived!

As one of the latest clean air initiatives under the Environmental Investment (ENVVEST) program, Vandenberg's Environmental Flight has launched an exciting Electric Vehicle (EV) Pilot Program. ENVVEST is a regulatory reform initiative engineered by the Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The concept provides a common sense approach to environmental management while promoting greater environmental protection at lower cost.

Funding for Vandenberg's EV Pilot Program is made possible by redirecting environmental compliance funds that would otherwise have been spent on the administrative costs of complying with a new facility-wide federal operating permit program under the Clean Air Act (CAA). Instead, Vandenberg has partnered with the EPA and the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District to embrace EV technology. The benefit: cleaner air and compliance with CAA requirements.

The Environmental Flight has teamed with the Transportation Squadron and the Operations Flight from the Civil Engineering Squadron to integrate EVs into the fleet mix of general-purpose vehicles. One of the biggest limitations to EV use is how far they can be driven before needing recharging. To find out which EVs would be best suited for use at Vandenberg, the Environmental Flight evaluated a "Blue Fleet" of approximately 142 vehicles. Further evaluation reduced the number of candidates for the EV Loaner Program. Under this program, candidate EVs are provided for a two- to three-week trial period so their applicability to day-to-day operations at Vandenberg can be tested and evaluated.

Since EVs are new to Vandenberg, some training requirements had to be met, as well. Thanks to the support and efforts of the Transportation Squadron, several skilled mechanics have already been specially trained by the auto manufacturers to service, troubleshoot, and repair Vandenberg's new EV fleet.

The benefits of driving an EV are impressive when compared to gasoline powered vehicles. First, maintenance for an EV costs less than half of what it does for its internal combustion counterpart because the EV has fewer moving parts and doesn't require tune-ups, oil changes, or muffler replacements. Second, there is no more waiting at the gas pump; just plug in the EV and let it charge overnight. Third, lower operating costs make EVs three to four times more energy efficient than gasoline powered vehicles. According to the Electric Power Research Institute, the "fuel" cost for an EV driven 15,000 miles per year is about \$243; for a gasoline powered vehicle it's about \$799 (in other words, \$0.04085 per kilowatt hour of electricity compared to \$1.15 per gallon of gasoline). Fourth, because the EVs are being charged during off-peak hours, when utility rates are lower, Vandenberg benefits from the reduced rate. Finally, there is the obvious benefit of EV technology: zero emissions. (see Electric Vehicles, page 2)

Close All ECAMP Findings by 31 March

30 CES/CEV would like to remind all base organizations to close any November 1999 ECAMP findings by 31 March 00. All *high enforcement vulnerability* and/or *major* findings are the priority and should be closed as soon as possible. To close ECAMP findings, corrective action must be documented on the ECAMP Closure Form and signed by the Squadron Commander. After obtaining the Squadron Commander's signature, forward all closure forms to:

Lt. Klesner, 30 CES/CEV
Building 7015
806 13th Street, Suite 116

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Reminder:

Keep Dumpster Lids Closed!

Please keep all solid waste dumpster lids closed! It helps reduce litter, prevents vectors from spreading disease, and keeps pests out.

Facility managers are responsible for keeping their dumpster areas clean.



If your facility has an over-filled dumpster or other related dumpster problems, contact Service Contracts at ext. 6-1928 to request a special pickup or more solid waste dumpsters.

Electric Vehicles (cont'd from Page 1)

A recent study by the EPA shows motor vehicles now account for more than half of the ozone precursor and carbon monoxide emissions in California. As the number of motor vehicles on the road continues to increase, emission reduction goals and requirements become more difficult and challenging to meet. It's easy to see how EVs can play an important role in meeting that challenge.

But what's it like to drive an EV? Actually, they offer a quiet, fume-free, and smooth driving experience. First time EV drivers are consistently surprised by the quality of that experience. Lt Col Scott Westfall, Chief Environmental Management Flight, has been testing and evaluating the performance of a Daimler-Chrysler EPIC minivan for the past three months and claims that, "The vehicle drives and handles like a regular car!" He also states that he is impressed with the vehicle's responsiveness and its ability to accelerate and mentions, "one can quickly get used to such a quiet ride."



Lt Col Scott Westfall, Chief Environmental Management Flight, charges his EV at the Building 7015 charging station.

Electric Vehicles are more than just a vision of the future; for Vandenberg Air Force Base they are a reality. The current fleet of 7 vehicles consists of 4 passenger vans and 3 pickup trucks. Future plans include adding another 20 vehicles during FY00 that would be used as part of a loaner program. The results of interviews with several base organizations will be used to decide which EVs would be the most suitable for this program. Organizations that are selected to participate in the EV loaner program will receive a temporary charging station. They will also be asked to evaluate each vehicle's performance by keeping records of its use and completing an evaluation survey at the end of the trial period. Based on results of the loaner program, Vandenberg will continue to place the most suitable EVs in use in its daily operations.

Clearly, EVs are a future trend. By actively looking for ways to add EVs to its fleet, Vandenberg is establishing itself as a pioneer in applying this exciting technology. If you would like more information on the EV Pilot Program, please contact Mr. Monte McVay, 30 CES/CEVPP, at extension 5-2015.

Procuring Officials: Buy Recycled Products

Vandenberg's procuring officials and authorized IMPAC card users hold the key to reducing pollution at the source. How? By purchasing environmentally preferable products (EPPs) and services whenever possible. EPPs and services have a reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with similar products or services. Raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance, or disposal are all factors that may impact the environment. Purchasing environmentally preferable products and services is not optional—it is a federal, state, and local requirement, and is essential for attaining pollution prevention goals.

Executive Order (EO), 13101, *Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling and Federal Acquisition*, requires all federal agencies to "incorporate waste prevention and recycling in ...[its] daily operations and work to increase and expand markets for recovered materials through greater federal government preference and demand for such products." EO 13101 basically states that if you are not making every effort to purchase items made from recycled content material, you are not complying with procurement requirements.

The **Air Force** developed a procurement program to comply with existing regulations called "**Affirmative Procurement.**" Affirmative Procurement is a term used to describe an installation's policy to purchase products made with recycled material. The term also encompasses a policy to purchase EPPs including those with reduced packaging.

EO 13101 and Affirmative Procurement requirements are important to all Vandenberg procuring officials. Without an understanding of the affirmative procurement program, compliance is not attained, and pollution prevention goals cannot be met. Your participation is vital to "closing the loop"; recycling materials alone does not complete the recycling process.

Only choosing to purchase EPP products and services, whenever feasible, completes the recycling process and reduces or prevents pollution at the source. Help Vandenberg achieve its pollution prevention goals by closing the loop and incorporating Affirmative Procurement procedures into your acquisition process.

If you would like more information on the Affirmative Procurement program, please contact Mr. Pat Maloy, 30 CES/CEV, ext. 5-0544.